

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 25, No. 11

November 15, 1957

Whole No. 302

Up-to-Date History in Happy Days

by William M. Burns



Happy Days No. 2 dated October 27, 1894
(From the Charles Duprez Dime Novel Picture Collection)

Up-to-Date History in Happy Days

by William M. Burns

As boy and man, I have for over 50 years read many of the various story papers for boys published in both England and America, and I still read them avidly, but I cannot recall a single story paper that tried to present up to date historical tales like Tousey's "Happy Days" did.

Now my files of "Happy Days" number less than 500 issues of over the 1500 issues that they ran to, so you can easily see that I can present less than one third of the up to date historical tales that appeared in them. What I will list below may astonish you a bit as to the many up to date historical tales in Happy Days.

I will start with my really fine run of "Happy Days" from #1 to 104, bound in two big volumes in green cloth. The first three I will list refer to the Cuban Revolt against Spain.

In "Happy Days" #43 dated Aug. 10, 1895, started the story, "Two Yankee Boys in Cuba; or, Fighting With the Patriots," by P. T. Raymond. In #79 the story "Maceo's Boy Guerillas; or, Fighting to Free Cuba," by Gaston Garne. Under date of June 27, 1896, started in Happy Days the story, "Frank Reade Jr. in Cuba; or, Helping the Patriots With His Latest Air Ship," by "Noname."

So there in 1895-6 we have three tales of the Cuban Revolt in the same

years as they occurred.

My next run of Happy Days is #139 to 205. There are no less than ten up to date historical tales in this run and here they are:

Under date of Sept. 4, 1897 started in Happy Days the tale "The Klondike Boys; or, Two Yankees on the Yukon" by R. T. Emmet.

Under date of Sept. 11, 1897, started the tale, "Fighting On Wheels; or, The Young Bicycle Brigade in Cuba," by Albert J. Booth.

Under date of Oct. 30, 1897 started the tale, "The Princess of the Klondike; or, A Brave Girl's Fight for Gold and Fame," by Abi S. Jackman. Under date of April 2, 1898 started the tale, "The Hero of the Maine; or, A Yankee Boys Life on a Battleship," by J. G. Bradley. Under date of May 14, 1898 started the tale, "Steve and the Spanish Spys; or, Working for Cuba's Cause," by Frank Forest.

Under date of May 21, 1898, started the story "Remember the Mairre; or, A Yankee Boy's Fight Against Spain," by R. T. Emmet.

Under date of June 18, 1898 started the tale "Only a Private; or, Fighting for Cuba's Freedom," by Abi S. Jackman. Under date of June 25, 1898 started the tale, "Dewey's Cabin Boy; or, The Hero of the Fleet" by H. K. Shackelford.

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Under date of July 2, 1898 started the tale, "Young Bob Samson; or, A-float With the Fighting Admiral," by C. Little.

Under date of Aug. 13, 1898, appeared the tale "Tom Taylor, the Boy Who Worried Blanco; or, How He Won His Stars," by H. K. Shackelford.

So there you have them. Ten up to date historical tales in 1897-98 about the Klondike Gold Rush and the Spanish-American War, published in the years in which they actually happened.

Now there may have been more of these two types of tales in Happy Days, probably there were, but I am unable to state as I have no copies whatever between #205 and 480. But I do have a run from #480 to 523, and in them are four tales of the Russo-Japanese War, and they are as follows:

Under date of April 9, 1904 started the tale, "Caught in the War; or, A Philadelphia Boy in Corea," by J. G. Bradley. Under date of May 14, 1904 started the tale, "Among the Japs and Russians; or, Trapped in the Hermit Kingdom," by J. G. Bradley.

Under date of July 16, 1904 started the tale "On Special Service; or, A Yankee Boy in the Army of Japan," by Ralph Morton. Under date of Aug. 27, 1904 started the tale "A Captain by Chance; or, Forced to Fight for the Mikado," by Ralph Morton.

So there we have four Russo-Japanese War tales that came out in the year in which it happened. At that time I was a lad of 12 years of age and was reading Happy Days every week. I seem to recall one or two other tales of this war in Happy Days, but if there were, I cannot recall them without data at this late date.

From now on in this article, my runs of Happy Days are short, so I will not mention any length to any of them, and here goes for other up to date historical tales:

Under date of April 12, 1913 started the tale, "Forced to Fight in Mexico; or, Pressed into Service," by Ralph Morton.

Under date of Nov. 1, 1913, started the tale, "The Broken Film; or, The Perils of a Moving Picture Actor," by Frank Forest. Under date of Feb. 7, 1914 started the tale, "Moving Picture Matt; or, The Great Film Fight," by R. J. Emmet. Under date of June 6, 1914, started the tale, "Matt and the Mexicans; or, The Boy Spy of the Border," by Ralph Morton. Under date of July 18, 1914, starts the tale "In the War; or, A Boy's Adventures in Mexico," by Ralph Morton.

Under date of Aug. 2, 1914, starts the tale, "Forced to Fight With Villa; or, An American Boy in Mexico," by Ralph Morton. Starting Sept. 12, 1914 "A Mission of Mystery; or, The Boy Who Was Sent to Mexico," by Cornelius Shea. Under date of Oct. 10, 1914, starts the tale, "Before the Camera; or, A Mystery of the Moving Pictures," by P. T. Raymond.

So in the above tales we have up to date stories of the early moving picture industry and stories of our troubles with Mexico and Pancho Villa at that time.

Under date of Oct. 17, 1914, starts the tale, "Trapped in Belgium; or, A Yankee Boy's Adventures in the War" by P. T. Raymond. Under date of November 28, 1914, starts the tale, "Fighting Fred Fay; or, A Yankee Boy in the Big War," by Ralph Morton. Starting April 24, 1915 was "At the Firing Line; or, A Yankee Boy in the Big War," by Ralph Morton.

So in the above we have three tales of World War I. I feel sure that there must have been other tales, later on after the U. S. entered the war, but unfortunately, my runs of Happy Days do not include these as I have none dated after 1915. As I stated at the start of this little article, my files of Happy Days are less than one-third of the entire run of them, so what must have been the amount of up to date historical tales in the entire run of over 1500 issues?

Aside from up to date historical tales, Happy Days always had many fine tales of past history. Tales of the French-Indian Wars, the Revolution, the Civil War, various wars we had with the Indians during and af-

ter the Civil War, tales of Flatboat days when we were trying to extend our frontier to Kentucky and the Ohio River, and beyond. Happy Days always was rich in historical tales, both past and present. No story paper can excel it in this way.

THIS IS THE WEST, a Signet Book, 35c, paperbound has just hit the newsstands. If you are interested in the West, much or little, get a copy. It has fine articles on every angle of Western frontier life, written by authors who know their West. These articles prove that fact can be as exciting as fiction. My top selection is "The Scouts" (mostly about Buffalo Bill Cody), by Don Russell, editor of the Westerners Brand Book and a subscriber to our Dime Novel Roundup. There are also Stanley Vestal, who writes of "The Soldiers" (in the Indian wars), James D. Horan with "The Gunmen" (new material on Kid Curry) and many others. Our friend and fellow-collector, Charlie Bragin, gets a mention (page 179) in Homer Croy's "They Built the Saga" (mostly about Wild West shows, Western painters and Western dime novels). As a special bonus, at the back of the book, a list and full description of "The 150 Places to See in the West."

EXCHANGE COLUMN

Wanted— Fame and Fortune #27, 181. Beadles Dime Library #102, 477. Secret Service #189, 221. Liberty Boys, any number before 1908. W. R. Johnson, 416 Wheeler St., Ardmore, Okla.

For Sale—58 Ted Strong stories, Thick, S&S. No duplicates. Generally good condition. The lot for \$20 post paid. Jack Schorr, 11572, So. Cypress St., Orange, Calif.

For Sale or Trade. 8 assorted facsimile black and white novels entirely unmarked, mint condition. Bargain. Write for information. P. J. Moran, 2040 Almond Ave., Concord, Calif.

NEWSY NEWS

Ralph F. Cummings
Fisherville, Mass.

Mr. Roy Phelps is recovering from an attack of pneumonia. He had quite a siege, having also just gotten over the effects of an automobile accident.

The Anniversary No. 300 of the Roundup was swell. The fine article on "William Wallace Cook," by Stanley A. Pachon, as well as Charley Duprez' "Photography in the Raw." Both very fine articles—Stanley must have done plenty of hunting around to get such a fine article on Wm. W. Cook, for it's a honey. Where's all the nice articles from the pen of J. Edward Leithead, he too writes up fine articles, and no doubt it won't be long before one will be popping up, also another from Ralph Adimari as well.

Well, Ed Le Blanc and myself went to see Frisco Bert Couch and his wife at Boxford, Mass., to the old Tree farm at "Woodlands," Rt. 1 and after hunting all over town for this place, we finally found it. No one seemed to know where the "Woodlands" was, not even the Postmaster, but after a fashion, he gave us an idea where the place was and then we couldn't find it, and not too far from there we were told to count 3 mail boxes back, and across from the 3rd one is a sort of blind wood road, and down in the wood some quarter of a mile or so we found the place. No wonder no one knew where such a place was located. That was Sept. 14th. Sept. 18th Frisco Bert, his squaw and her sister went down to Ed Le Blanc's place, and had a very nice time there and the next day they came up here, on there way back to Boxford again.

Charles Duprez writes that Joe Ambruster who has been up to his folks in Wisconsin and at the time he wrote had been through a siege in the hospital. He has given up riding his high wheel bike now. He was all out I understand to try his luck once more riding the darn thing all over again from St. Louis to Denver. It's only a thousand miles, he is only high in his 80's and from what I un-

derstand the roads have been improved making it much easier for such a trip. Being advanced in age we can overlook the fact that he won't have quite the trouble as in '89. Besides there are no Indians to fear—they are some place else now and not quite so bloodthirsty. The Indians today don't even go after your scalp.

The Bibliographic Listing of The Golden Days by Rev. Don L. Steinhauer of Phila., Pa., sure is something, and is worthy of any one's collection, whether they are interested in Golden Days or not, and it's well done—look at the long hours Don has put into such a listing, giving the titles, author, volume and numbers of all that appeared from Vol. 1, No. 1 to Vol. 28, No. 27. 22 pages. Also an alphabetical listing of the authors on page 23 to 32 of this booklet. A very fine piece of work, Don, and we all thank you for your untiring efforts to bring out such a work. It's wonderful. Illustrated too. If you've not done so already, send Ed. Le Blanc \$2 for a copy.

Brother Smeltzer brings to our attention the fact that Gil Patten (Burt L. Standish) outside of his Merriwell tales in the old "Medal Library" also penned the following:

- #10 Don Kirk, the Boy Cattle King
- #12 Don Kirk's Mine
- #24 The Boy From the West
- #28 The Boy Boomers
- #33 Jud and Joe, Printers and Publishers

Bob sez he picked up a "Dick Turpin," 3d, and after reading it he joined the "Turpin" faith, meaning that Bob has already read about a dozen of 'em, and he wants to tell us brothers about the pleasure; the thrill, he got out of them. Romance galore, as per the Bow Street Runners; Dick Turpin and his comrades Beetles and Peters and Sing Sang,

the conjurist, who are the life of the party; all faithful parads of the darling Dick Turpin. Bob sez he intends to give us an honest-to-goodness review of the contents of this sterling set of tales; good for boy and man.

True—No. 1 Man's magazine for July 1956 has a fine article in it on "The Man Who Built Buffalo Bill," by Charles Boswell and Lewis Thompson. See pages 32, 33, 96 to 108 inc. There is a picture of Ned Buntline on page 96. Page 98 has 2 illustrations of Diamond Dick Library #192 and Beadles Dime Library #517 also 2 more on page 102 of Wide Awake Library #130 and Log Cabin Library #116. Looks like a very interesting article, as I haven't had a chance to read it yet. Also Rugged Men (Mag) for June 1956, has a fine article on "Why Won't Jesse James Stay Dead?" by Len Stewart, on pages 18, 19, 74 to 78.

Oh yes, Prof. Morton S. Enslin of 16 Prospect St., Canton, N. Y. was here on July 6th. He is a professor at the St. Lawrence University of New York. He is staying down at Dennis Port, Mass., Box 365, on Cape Cod till the 1st of Sept. He is an Horatio Alger, Jr., collector.

Harry L. Weatherbee, of Springhill, N. S., Canada, (a Young Wild West Lover) says the Clyde Beatty show was up near his place, but he didn't have the time to go see it. It was down here in Worcester, and I forgot all about it, until too late. Bill Claggett says it entered Canada from Calais, Maine, of which the first stand was to be at St. Johns, N.B., Canada, July 15-16 and stands in Nova Scotia follows—"Prince Edward Island," etc. They are using the same old Sparks Circus used years ago. All good show towns.

The New York Clipper for Oct. 25, 1890 had some fine Circus news

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 208 Leo Kon, 604 Second St., Fall River, Mass. (New member)
- 41 William H. Gander, 317 Bond St., Transcona, Man., Canada (New add.)
- 174 Roy Phelps, 4507 5th Ave. N. E., Seattle 5, Wash. (New address)
- 209 Ralph D. Gardner, 91 Central Park West, New York 23, N.Y. (New mem.)

"Under the White Tents."—"Stuttgart, Germany, made a fete day of the opening of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The Court attended, and many Wurtembergers were delighted with the American show."

Ilealy & Bigelow's Kickapoo Indian Medicine Co., No. 43, closed a successful season of three weeks at White Mills, Pa. also other very interesting circus items.

Wallace H. Waldrop says his fine garden has "gone with the wind," everything is drying up, account of no rain. It's been so long since we saw rain up here Wallace, that we've forgot what it looks like.

Bill Burns says he has been a member of H. H. Bro. for 29 consecutive years. Only Smith, Smeltzer, and myself have been in when it started in Nov. 1924.

Bill will go on a flying family reunion to Groton, Conn., the first week in August.

Wishes he could stop in, but says he can't make it this year, but is going to try and make it next year.

QUESTION & ANSWER COLUMN

Can anyone furnish the source edition of Beadles Frontier Series Nos. 2, 5 and 11?

HORATIO ALGER collector

wishes to buy or swap Alger titles. What have you? Send lists to

R. Gardner

91 Central Park West
New York 23, N. Y.

Statement required by the Act of August 24, 1912 as amended by the Acts of Mar. 3, 1933 and July 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233). Showing the Ownership, Management and Circulation of

Dime Novel Round-Up

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Lawrence, Kansas

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

Editor, Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

Managing Editor, Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

Business Mgr., Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Edward T. LeBlanc,

87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None

Signed

Edward T. LeBlanc

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of October, 1957.

(Seal)

C. H. Camille Whitehead

(My commission expires May 12, 1962)

NOVELS WANTED

FRANK READE LIBRARY #38 39 48 123 125 147 151 152 163 165 168 170
176 183

NUGGET LIBRARY #22 124 148 159

BOYS STAR #345 348

Wanted, all other Frank Reade, Jack Wright and other invention stories in fine condition to replace poorer copies in my collection. Also early Diamond Dick stories in black & white and colored covers. Also want BOYS OF NEW YORK, HAPPY DAYS and all other story papers with invention stories.

C. V. CLARK

56 Cooper Square

New York 3, N. Y.

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SNAPS: Complete set in good, clean, sound condition, with nice front and back covers, bound in four volumes of 18 each. The entire run of 72 issues of this very rare old colored cover novel, already bound for you, at about half the price usually asked for scattered single copies. A genuine bargain. \$100.00

ALDINE'S INVENTION LIBRARY: (Frank Reade stories from the Frank Reade Library reprinted in England about 60 years ago. The publishers re-drew the covers in full color, using a much better grade of paper and a much superior format. Size about 6x8½ inches. With the exception of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 72, 112, 113 and 114, all of the first 128 issues are here, bound in 8 volumes. In good condition with all covers. These are really better than the black and white Frank Reade Library and are offered here for only \$150.00

KLONDIKE KIT: First 15 issues, bound in black cloth, all in good condition. A few with coupons missing from back page (not back cover). Edges browned somewhat but reading matter not affected. Nice bright covers. \$17.50

YOUNG SPORTS: One of the rarest of story papers, published in the middle 1890s. Successor to Young Sports Library and Young Sports of America. Stories of adventure, profusely illustrated. No. 1 to No. 43, bound in black cloth and in very good condition. \$60.00

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BEADLES POCKET LIBRARY: 12 15 16 19 20 21 27 36 45 46 48 49 117 118 149 162 194 197 250 275 289 310 316 319 323 340 387. Good, clean, sound condition. Each \$1.50

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BEADLE'S DIME DIALOGUES: (Ivers) No. 26. Very good \$1.00

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New Buffalo Bill Weekly #1 to 74 complete. #76 to 364 lacking 9 numbers. In all, 354 numbers out of complete set of 364, all good, mostly new and uncut, \$120.00.

Illustrated World (Elverson) #1 to 32, complete set, \$10.00

Golden Weekly (Tousey story paper) #1 to 145 complete set in nice condition, \$125.00

Old Log Cabin Library. About 100 numbers, mostly \$2.00 each. Range from \$1.00 to \$3.00 depending on rarity and condition. Also, a good copy of Log Cabin Pocket Edition #1 for \$3.50.

Old Log Cabin Library, bound volume, binding chipped, novels clean, yellow edges. 23 numbers between #128 and 199, \$45.00.

Golden Days Volumes 1 to 5, 16 to 21, \$10.00 each. Volumes 6 to 15, \$3.50 each. Complete your set while you have the opportunity!

Adventure Weekly (Phil and Ralph in China). #1 to 19 in a handsome bound volume, novels in nice shape. \$50.00

Amateur papers on dime novels and English bloods, all kinds, long runs and single copies. Complete your sets.

Magazines—back numbers—thousands in stock—Top Notch, Popular, Wild West Weekly, Red Book, Railroad, Adventure, Ballou, Frontier, Ace-High, Western Story, Detective Story, and fifty other kinds.

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Family Herald (Stevens, England) #1654 to 2332, with 3 numbers missing. Bound in 18 volumes, 676 numbers, 1875-1887, serials and shorts. The lot for \$50.00

Family Herald. Volume of supplements, each contains complete novel. 45 numbers between #257 and 308 (1884), \$4.50

Family Herald #1 to 52 bound, \$5.00. #940 to 991 bound, \$4.00.

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